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REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1 – 18 are pending in the application, and claims 1, 2, 9, 10, and 15 are rejected. By this amendment, claims 1, 2, 9, 10, and 15 have been cancelled and claims 3, 7, 11, 12, 13, 16, and 17 have been amended to place the application in a condition for allowance. Thus, claims 3 – 8, 11 – 14, and 16 – 18 are pending in the application.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,459,820 to Sarachik. By this amendment, the rejected claims have been cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that claims 3 – 8, 11 – 14, and 16 – 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In order to place this application in a condition for allowance, claims 3, 7, 11, and 16 have been amended in independent form by including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Additionally, claims 12, 13, and 17 have been amended to correct minor inconsistencies in terminology that do not affect the scope of the claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims pending in the application. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned Applicant's Attorney to facilitate advancement of the present Application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-2357.

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Respectfully submitted,



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